

REGULAR BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, July 26, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting (in-person and virtual)
City Hall Council Chambers

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82138835586?pwd=cURCNkFMM3lBalM1d2FTV2FXMDhIdz09>

Meeting ID: 821 3883 5586

Passcode: 923814

Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) *long distance rates may apply*

1. Call to Order – 5:30 p.m.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda
3. Visitors and Communications (for something not on the agenda)
4. Old Business
 - A. Approval of Minutes of the Special Committee Meetings July 1 and July 17, 2021
 - B. Landlord Initiatives
5. New Business
6. Roundtable
7. Adjourn

SPECIAL BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 1, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Remote Participation via ZOOM Platform

Present: Elaine Wang, Chair; Conor Teal, Vice-Chair; Phil Cecchini

Staff: Janet Shatney, Planning Director; Jeff Bergeron, Buildings & Community Services Director

Visitors: Deb Sachs, EcoStrategies, LLC; Brad Long, Efficiency Vermont; Ward 3 Councilor Samn Stockwell

1. Call to Order

5:46 pm on the video conference platform ZOOM.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Moved Old Business Letter C(1) to the beginning of the agenda, and accommodated for others.

3. Visitors and Communications *(for something not on the agenda)*

None.

4. Old Business

C. 2021 Goals

C1. Landlords/tenants: Council Charge:

Councilor Stockwell asked about the committee's progress from the Council's charge, and the committee stated that between the shortage of members that all have full-time jobs, and that the ask by the Council is a heavy lift, it's going to take some time to get something back. Her concern is that tenants pay their heat, the buildings are not efficient, have their windows open and the heat is a big waste. How do we get statistics on ho heat is provided, and what it is. Shatney thought a simple survey to all the landlords would be a great start.

Discussion on how to get information out of landlords via letter by EVT, and looking at buildings around the city during the winter that are the energy lacking giveaways (icicles, upper floor windows open).

1a. Update from Efficiency Vermont:

Long stated the informational letter is ready by him and being vetted by his superiors, then will share with the Committee before sending out. He also stated that the Barre City tenant/landlord initiative is fully underway, and any information to share should continue to be done so.

Teal will walk the downtown with Long and work with Tracie Lewis, of the Barre Partnership. Need to rethink a better campaign strategy, but the committee must take the lead, not EVT. Long will reach out to Waterbury LEAP, their energy committee for some strategic recommendations that could be shared with us. Last, remember the appliance recycling – while

49 we cannot advertise it, it is still going on, so do not promote directly, but
50 attempt to chat it up so the word spreads.
51

52 **1b. Permit Process and Code Enforcement Presentations:**

53 Code Enforcement officers could not be present for meeting, so will be on
54 at a later date. Shatney gave an overview of the permitting process out of
55 the city – 4 types of permits issued, the process by which an application
56 is received and the assistance given.
57

58 **B. Municipal Operations Discussion with Director Jeff Bergeron:**

59 Discussion on upgrades to Alumni Hall and City Hall heating systems occurred, and
60 the installation of 4 new heat pumps this fall. The BOR will need multiple upgrades
61 like insulating and lights, motors on the compressors, as it was never intended to be
62 an indoor rink when it was constructed. And, the Wheelock Building on N. Main
63 Street has no insulation. Wang asked that Bergeron be invited to come give the
64 committee an update every 3 months.
65

66 **C. 2021 Goals, continued**

67 **C5. Community Engagement Roadmap Update:**

68 Sachs noted that the roadmap has been worked on, and created a list of priorities
69 from it, looking the details how they were broken down. Priority is to finish
70 the roadmap. Also noted perhaps with ARPA funds, some of the priorities
71 could be attended to.
72

73 **C2. Set special heat pump initiative and priority meeting:**

74 Saturday, July 17th, 2021 at 8:30 am hybrid meeting. Shatney will send agenda
75 out.
76

77 **C3. MyRide pilot update:**

78 Wang received a response from Jamie Smith of GMT. They are working on a
79 criteria report to include all the towns, but still hopes that Barre City is the
80 priority.
81

82 **C4. Outreach**

83 **4a. Contact list divvying:**

84 Will be added to the July 17, 2021 special meeting agenda.
85
86

87 **4b. Energy Champion interview updates:**

88 Teal agreed to interview Bob Nelson of Ace Hardware, and Cecchini agreed
89 to interview Long.
90

91 **C6. Council Presentation Report-out:**

92 Teal said the presentation he gave went well, Palmer was present and had a bit to
93 add, and she said her goodbyes at the Council meeting. Council approved the goals
94 and action steps as presented by Teal.
95

SPECIAL BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
July 17, 2021 at 8:30 am

Present: Elaine Wang, Chair; Conor Teal, Vice-Chair; Phil Cecchini

Staff: Janet Shatney, Planning Director

Visitors: Deb Sachs, EcoStrategies, LLC; David Blittersdorf, All Earth Renewables, LLC

1. **Call to Order**

The Special Meeting was called to order in-person and via video platform by Chair Wang at 8:32 am.

2. **Adjustments to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Visitors and Communications** (*for something not on the agenda*)

None.

4. **Old Business**

A. Heat Pump Initiative

BCEC's goal is to have the community install 200 heat pumps this year. Discussion started with funding, and Cecchini said the committee should not be acting like the distributor. 4 clear barriers quickly came from this:

1. Installers:

- Cecchini said Capstone (his employer) needs more certified people authorized to make the final connections
- BCEC can inform installers on the EVT list of what is being done and what the goals are, so they are aware
- Inform them they are on our installer list
- BCEC to create and send a flyer, so they can hand out to their customers
- Try to obtain a tally from EVT

2. Supply Chain:

- Based on Blittersdorf's remarks, materials are some ways out, so discussion at this point cannot help.

3. Customers:

- Demand is right now
- Easier to sell items when there is a need (its hot out, I need A/C)
- BCEC could pitch the sales of heat pumps – pre-education, education
- Have effective and productive workshops
- EVT incentives have too short of a window of opportunity
- Check on the landlord workshop with Long from EVT
- Direct outreach appears to be the best way

